Background of Topic

Since the beginning of time, Mother Nature has waged a war against humanity, causing widespread death and destruction in the form of natural disasters: hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis, among others (Wise, 2009). While the aftermaths of such forces are dependent on a number of variables- location, demographics, population, etc.- these disasters still remain a significant cause of human death, killing nearly one million people from the year 1991-2005 alone (Wise, 2009). Since the beginning of time, however, humans have been fighting back. While the history of emergency management shows humble beginnings, eventually traced back to the hieroglyphs of cavemen, modern day civilization managed to organize more effective and influential methods on how to deal with such tragic events This looks suspicious to me - copied and pasted??? Because of the spelling (English version) Where did you retrieve this information? (Haddow, Bullock, & Coppola, 2008). In the United States alone, this began with a piece of legislation, the Congressional Act of 1803, which put to use the concept of giving aid to disaster victims in the form of federal resources (NEMA, 2008). This led to other pieces of legislation, including the Flood Control Act of 1934, which allowed engineers to pursue projects to make infrastructure more resistant to floods (Haddow et al., 2008). When World War II and the Cold War came about, government planning leaned more toward protecting civilians from man-made disasters, such as nuclear bombs (, however, that changed once the 1960’s arrived (Haddow et al., 2008). With a plethora of disasters occurring- a strong earthquake in Montana date?, an east coast Ash Wednesday storm date?, a series of destructive hurricanes, an Alaskan earthquake date?, and a tsunami in California, the Kennedy Administration decided it was time to take action(Haddow et al., 2008) It created the Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP), an agency focused on dealing with natural disasters (NEMA, 2008) this source came from a presentation given at the National Severe Weather Workshop in 2008. Use NEMA for the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) Also surfacing in the 1960’s, however, was (GIS) spell out first time, then you can use the acronym technology. Although GIS were made up of many software programs eventually evolving to serve the purpose of mapping geographic data, the most important program of the early days was spell out first (SYMAP), created in 1966 at the Harvard Graduate School of Design (Mark., Chrisman,., Frank, , McHaffie,, & Pickles, , 1997). GIS software was originally once meant to be used on a specific computer, a university or government one, but as computers became cheaper, powerful, and more common, GIS software became more available to various companies and community agencies (Harris,. & Elmes, 1993). Today, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), established by President Carter in 1978), uses GIS regularly to help aid disaster response and to map geographically referenced data (Haddow, et al., 2008) During the Hurricane Katrina Catastrophe of 2005, GIS technology was used to map several data, including the path of the storm, flooding overview, power outages, and overall damage (FEMA, 2010).

Okay Emily, I think you’re somewhat on the right track here, but I’m a bit concerned where you retrieved your information and want to make sure you’re paraphrasing and not copying and pasting. You need to include your reference citations - be specific and if you are having problems citing, ask me for help.

National Emergency Management Association (NEMA). (2008). A selective history of emergency management (online PowerPoint presentation). Retrieved from http://www.norman.noaa.gov/NSWW2008/Ashwood.pdf